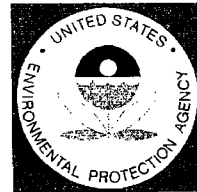




299741



September 19, 2005

Via E-mail and Hard Copy

Bob Frey
Chief, Health Assessment Section
Bureau of Environmental Health
Ohio Department of Health
246 North High Street
P.O. Box 118
Columbus, Ohio 43216-0118

RE: Contact Advisory for the Middle Fork of Little Beaver Creek
Nease Chemical Site, Salem, Ohio

Dear Mr. Frey:

Bob

This letter is a request from U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA (the Agencies) to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) asking you to reassess the existing advisory against contact with stream waters and sediment in the Middle Fork of Little Beaver Creek (MFLBC). The request is based on new information, including more recent chemical data and a new human health risk assessment (including a toxicity reassessment of mirex).

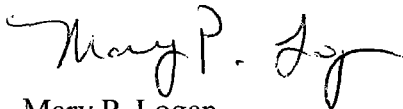
As you are aware, ODH issued a contact advisory for the MFLBC in 1988, based on the presence of elevated levels of mirex measured in stream sediments and fish in sampling carried out in MFLBC in the mid-1980's. The Agencies have been working with Rutgers Organics Corporation (ROC) to investigate the Nease Chemical Superfund Site near Salem, Ohio. As part of the Superfund process, an Endangerment Assessment was developed that included a human health risk assessment and an ecological risk assessment. The human health risk assessment evaluated the potential risks that could result to people from exposure to the contaminants at the Site under current use scenarios and potential future use scenarios, assuming that no cleanup takes place. The risk assessment is consistent with U.S. EPA's guidance and uses protective assumptions in evaluating potential risks. U.S. EPA conducted a toxicity reassessment of mirex as part of the study. An electronic copy of the Endangerment Assessment is included.

Based on the Endangerment Assessment scenarios that evaluated risk from direct contact with media in the MFLBC, the toxicity reassessment of mirex, and newer sampling data for sediments along and in the MFLBC, the Agencies believe that the information supports the reassessment of the existing advisory against contact with stream waters and sediment. As such, we requested ROC to prepare a memorandum summarizing the new information. The memorandum, entitled

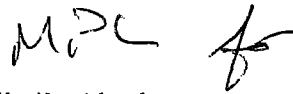
Middle Fork of Little Beaver Creek, Ohio, Review of Direct Contact Advisory (dated July 21, 2005) is enclosed.

Please review the enclosed information and keep us apprised of the outcome of your reassessment, including any determination regarding the need for the contact advisory along the MFLBC.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the below-listed numbers if you have any questions regarding this letter or require any clarification or additional information.



Mary P. Logan
Remedial Project Manager
U.S EPA - Superfund Division
(312) 886-4699



Sheila Abraham
Site Coordinator/ES-3
Ohio EPA, Division of Emergency and
Remedial Response
(330) 963-1290

Attachments

cc via email: R. Beals, Ohio EPA, NEDO, w/out attachments
S. Love, Ohio EPA, NEDO, w/out attachments
J. Estenik, Ohio EPA, w/out attachments
M. Mankowski, U.S. EPA, w/out attachments
R. Domalski, ROC, w/out attachments